

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 8/22/2021

The August Congregation Council Meeting was held on 8/18/2021

Council Members Present: Pastor Eric Reimer, Denise Betz, Harry Betz, Chris Casey, Carole DePue, Linda Morrison, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, and Bruce Roper

Absent: Lisa Fritz, Allison Hudson, and Trish Strauss

The meeting was called to order by President Denise Betz at 7:09 p.m. The scripture was read by Harry Betz and the prayer was offered by Bruce Roper.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Pastor Norbert Hahn, Dean/Lower Bucks Conference, SE PA Synod, ELCA

Pastor Erica Wesch

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session.

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Harry Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**

A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

*It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Bruce Roper. **MOTION CARRIED**

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Date: 7/21/21 & 7/27/21

*The minutes from July were approved without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Harry Betz / Bob Muller. **MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS:

President, Denise Betz –Attached

Finance Committee – Attached

*It was moved and seconded to accept the Financial report as presented. (Denise Betz / Linda Morrison)

MOTION CARRIED

Finance Committee is investigating options regarding the parsonage - is worth retaining it while it is unoccupied for the next year and a half or so while searching for a new Pastor, when there is the strong possibility that the incoming pastor will not want/need it. Finance Committee will look at operating costs of the parsonage over the last several years and the average/estimated cost of capital improvements to continue maintaining it. Finance will be analyze the costs/benefits and come back to council with options and a recommendation.

A Motion was made by the Finance Committee that we remove all former employees (Pastor Eric Reimer, Kristy Schmidt) from our checking account with TD Bank as signers and add Joseph Kircher as a signer. It was seconded by Bob Muller. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session.

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Bruce Roper. **MOTION CARRIED**

A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

*It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Shannon O'Neill. **MOTION CARRIED**

Pastoral Update

- Exit interview was held with Pastor Reimer, Pastor Hahn (Dean/Synod) & Pastor Wesch (Synod)

Worship Services/Baptisms/Memorial Services – Denise Betz informed Council of upcoming services. It was requested by the family to use Fellowship Hall as part of Nancy Inglin’s memorial service on September 5th and Floss Eichlin’s memorial service on September 23rd. Council agreed to permit the use of Fellowship Hall with whatever coronavirus protocols that the families are comfortable with. Fellowship Hall and the bathrooms will be sanitized by church volunteers afterward.

The PCR % Rate in Montgomery County is currently up to 4.2% (as of 8/13/21) but still under our 5.0% threshold for indoor worship services with current restrictions. A Motion was made that, should the PCR % rate hit 5.0% or more, we will limit attendance for Sunday worship service to 60 attendees (total, including staff), mandate that masks be worn, keep the rope separation in place for social distancing, and continue to allow no singing.

*It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Denise Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session.

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Shannon O’Neill. **MOTION CARRIED**

A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Linda Morrison. **MOTION CARRIED**

PPP Loan Update – Harry Betz informed Council that the PPP Loan from March of 2020 through TD bank for \$33,000 has been officially forgiven and no repayment of these funds will be required.

Bob Muller passed out a draft of an application for a Media Equipment Grant to Council for their review and explained its purpose, which is to upgrade our technology equipment. Bob will be submitting this application by the end of September.

NEW BUSINESS:

Outside Groups – have been contacting office staff to come back into the building.

Motion was made to open our building back up to outside groups effective immediately under the same rules and expectations as it was prior to the Covid pandemic last year, as long as the PCR % rate remains below 5.0%.

*It was moved and seconded by Bruce Roper / Harry Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**

Saturday Night Focus Group – The first meeting is set for Tuesday 8/24 to discuss ways to revitalize and improve the Saturday Night Service, scheduled to be reintroduced in October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Christian Education – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Food Pantry Report - See report
- Mutual Ministry – No report

- Property - See report
- Social Media – No report
- Social Ministry – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – No report

CORRESPONDENCE:

A Motion was made to allow the Red Cross to use Fellowship Hall on Wednesday 12/1/21 from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

*It was moved and seconded by Linda Morrison / Bruce Roper. **MOTION CARRIED**

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Scripture: Harry Betz

Prayer: Linda Morrison

Refreshments: Denise Betz

*It was moved and seconded by Denise Betz / Bruce Roper to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Roper